

Appl. No. 10/668,493
Attorney Docket No.: 2003B099
Amdt. dated December 16, 2005
Reply to Office Action of Nov. 2, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

By the amendments presented, Claim 10 is rewritten to incorporate therein the subject matter of Claim 11. Claim 11 is accordingly canceled without prejudice.

Further by the amendments presented, Claim 20 is rewritten to incorporate therein the subject matter of Claim 26. Claim 26 is accordingly canceled without prejudice.

Further by the amendments presented, non-elected Claims 30-50 are canceled herein without prejudice.

Upon entry of the claim amendments presented, Claims 10, 12-25, and 27-29 remain in the application. No additional claims fee is due as a result of the claim amendments made.

Invention Synopsis

As currently claimed, the present invention is directed to the preparation of certain types of molecular sieves and molecular sieve-containing catalyst compositions. In such preparation, molecular sieves are recovered from their synthesis mixture by introducing a flocculant to that synthesis mixture to cause the molecular sieve material to settle to the bottom of the synthesis mixture reaction vessel. Such settled molecular sieve material is then recovered and subjected to heat treatment at a temperature between about 50 °C and about 250 °C. Molecular sieves which have been recovered and treated in this manner contain some residual flocculating agent. When incorporated into catalyst composites with binder and matrix material, these molecular sieves impart especially desirable improved attrition resistance to the resulting catalyst compositions. Such improved catalyst compositions are, in turn, especially useful for promoting conversion of oxygenate feedstocks to light olefins.

Restriction Requirement

The previously applied restriction requirement, after Applicants' traversal, has now been made FINAL. Accordingly, non-elected Claims 30-50 have, as indicated, been canceled from the

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present application. Such claim cancellation is done without prejudice to Applicants' right to pursue these canceled non-elected claims via one or more divisional applications.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the final Office Action, the Examiner indicates that Claims 11 and 26 would be allowable if rewritten in dependent form. By the amendments presented herein, the language of Claim 11 has been incorporated into Claim 10 from which it depended, and the language of Claim 26 has been incorporated into Claim 20 from which it depended. It is submitted that such amendments convert Claims 10 and 20 into allowable independent claims. The remaining claims all depend, either directly or indirectly, from these two allowable independent claims. Accordingly, all claims remaining in the case should likewise now be allowable.

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CONCLUSIONS

Applicants submit that the claim amendments presented herein should leave only allowable claims remaining in the case after Final Rejection. WHEREFORE, reconsideration of this application, entry of the amendments presented, withdrawal of the claim rejection under 35 USC §103, and allowance of amended Claims 10, 12-25, and 27-29 are respectfully requested. Alternatively, entry of the amendments presented herein in order to place the claims in better form for appeal is respectfully requested.

It is also respectfully requested that the Examiner expeditiously notify Applicants' undersigned attorney as to the disposition of the amendments and remarks presented herein in accordance with MPEP §714.13.

Any comments or questions concerning the application can be directed to the undersigned at the telephone number given below

Respectfully submitted,

December 16, 2005

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